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ABSTRACT 420 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 NOV 1999

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for monitoring haemodynamic function in animals and humans during anaesthesia and surgery. During anaesthesia and surgery the subject's haemodynamic, respiratory, neuromuscular and neurological functions are monitored as indicators of the condition of the health of the subject. Commonly, variations in blood pressure are used to imply corresponding variations in cardiac output, i.e. good blood pressure equals good cardiac output. The present invention utilizes a device to monitor changes of blood flow in peripheral blood vessels of the subject as an indicator of cardiac output. This is believed to provide a much more accurate indicator.